

9 DEC 1958

I. Quixotic, one-man rule of Crown Prince Sihanouk main cause Cambodia's weakness

combatting growing threat Communist subversion.

A. He unilaterally concluded political and economic agreements with Sino-Soviet

bloc over past two years.

B. With large ChiCom embassy now taking shape Phnom Penh, following establish-

ment diplomatic relations last July, Commie bloc now represented in

Cambodia in force.

II. Commies avoiding blatant subversion to avoid repression, but active in

propagandizing Cambodian youth through penetration educational system.

clergy,
Buddhist, ~~and~~ Chinese and Vietnamese minorities also important targets.

~~A. Cambodian Information Ministry and local press already orientated to left
as result subversive inroads.~~

A. Cultural media--Cambodian language broadcasts, movies, ^{literature} etc--being heavily
used by Commies expand influence.

B. Developing Commie economic ^{aid} ~~and~~ programs and trade avenues are long-range
threat of major significance.

III. Frequent turn-over in Cambodian regimes under Sihanouk's erratic leadership

precludes strong administration needed for effective counter action.

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B. Sihanouk's zig-zag course between East and West results in periodic damaging concessions to Commie bloc which never retrieved.

1. Succeeding round of concessions start from previous plateau.

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IV. Sihanouk still firmly in saddle with no immediate prospects his ^cclipse ~~from power~~

A. Threat of coup by rightist elements, [redacted]

[redacted] considered remote.

B. Growing dissatisfaction in official circles no serious threat as yet.

C. Sihanouk retains loyalty masses in addition enjoying royal prerogatives.

V. Present crisis with Thailand example of Sihanouk's abrupt, unpredictable nature.

A. Evidence indicates Sihanouk's sudden decision break relations with Thais

stemmed solely from pique over routine criticism in Thai press.

B. *This action came at time when Marshal Sarit, himself dictator, had declined to spur of moment decision, was being threatened by rising factional rivalry.*
B. Sarit ~~enthusiastically~~ seized on Cambodian "insult" to dispel internal

dissatisfactions his tyrannical rule and to unify his followers.

VI. Sarit has made strong, probably unacceptable demands on Cambodians and both

countries been informally circulating charges at the UN and generally throughout

the world.

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Approved For Release 2004/03/17 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001000080010-7

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